



Section 7: Plurals

7.1 Animals, Fishes, and Related Terms

| Singular | Plural | Mix of Species |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| alevin | alevins | alevins |
| alga | algae ¹ | algae ¹ |
| bear | bears | bears |
| beaver | beavers | NA |
| bison | bison ¹ | NA |
| buck | bucks ¹ | bucks ¹ |
| caribou | caribou ¹ | NA |
| char | char ¹ | chars ¹ |
| clam | clams | clams |
| cod | cod ¹ | cods ¹ |
| coyote | coyotes | NA |
| crab | crabs | crabs |
| deer | deer ¹ | deer ¹ |
| doe | does ¹ | does ¹ |
| duck | ducks | ducks |
| elk | elk ¹ | NA |
| fingerling | fingerlings | fingerlings |
| fish | fish | fishes |
| flounder | flounders ¹ | flounders ¹ |
| fox | foxes | foxes |
| fry | fry | fry |
| fungus | fungi/funguses | fungi/funguses |
| furbearer | furbearers | furbearers |
| geoduck | geoducks | geoducks |
| goat | goats | goats |
| goose | geese | geese |
| grouse | grouse ¹ | grouses ¹ |
| halibut | halibut ¹ | halibuts ¹ |

| Singular | Plural | Mix of Species |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| hare | hares | hares |
| herring | herring ¹ | herrings ¹ |
| larva | larvae ¹ | larvae ¹ |
| lynx | lynx ¹ | lynxes ¹ |
| marten | martens | NA |
| megalopa ² | megalopae | megalopas |
| megalops ² | megalops | megalops |
| mink | mink ¹ | NA |
| mollusk | mollusks | mollusks |
| moose | moose | NA |
| muskox | muskoxen | NA |
| muskrat | muskrats | NA |
| octopus | octopuses/octopi | octopuses/octopi |
| otter | otters | otters |
| parr | parr ¹ | parr ¹ |
| pike | pike ¹ | esocids ⁴ |
| plankter ³ | plankton/plankters ³ | plankton ³ |
| rockfish | rockfish ¹ | rockfishes ¹ |
| salmon | salmon ¹ | salmon ¹ |
| sheep | sheep | sheep |
| shrimp | shrimp ¹ | shrimps ¹ |
| smolt | smolts ¹ | smolts |
| squid | squid ¹ | squids ¹ |
| trout | trout ¹ | trouts ¹ |
| walrus | walruses | NA |
| waterfowl | waterfowl | waterfowl |
| weasel | weasels | weasels |
| wolf | wolves | NA |
| wolverine | wolverines | NA |
| zoea ¹ | zoeas ¹ | zoeas ¹ |

¹ The dictionary recognizes 2 acceptable plurals, but the committee decided that only this plural should be used in ADF&G writing.

² Use either megalopa or megalops and their plurals, but do not mix the 2 forms (megalops/megalopa) within a document.

³ Use *plankter* for a single planktonic organism. Use *plankters* when referring to a specific number of such organisms; however, *plankton* may also be used. For example, “a count of 1.3×10^3 zooplankters” but “the zooplankton count was 1.3×10^6 ” (not 1.3×10^3 zooplankton). Also, use *plankton* when referring to the population or general group of such organisms.

⁴ Although technically pickerels and muskellunge are pikes, when referring to a mix of pike species “pikes” may be misunderstood to be several or more pike *E. lucius*. Therefore, when referring to a mix of pike species, use “esocids.”

7.2 General Terms

The following singulars and plurals should be used as indicated. Words in brackets are allowed in general writing but not in technical writing. When there are 2 plurals and both are acceptable, they are separated by a slash (/).

| Singular | Plural |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| agenda | agendas |
| criterion | criteria [criteria ¹] |
| data point [not data ²] | data |
| fishery ³ | fisheries ³ |
| formula | formulas |
| genus | genera |
| hypothesis | hypotheses |
| index | indices [indexes ¹] |
| memorandum | memoranda/memorandums |
| ovum | ova |
| phenomenon | phenomena |
| species | species |
| stratum | strata [stratums ⁴] |
| symposium | symposia/symposiums |
| taxon | taxa |
| virion | virions ⁵ |
| virus ⁵ | viruses ⁵ |

¹ Although allowed in popular writing, this should not be used in technical writing.

² Although *data* as a singular is allowed in popular writing, this should not be used in technical writing. (Note: *datum* is no longer used.)

³ Use *fishery* or *fisheries* as a plural modifier of *biologist* or *management*; whichever is used, use it consistently within the document, not both. For ADF&G biologists, use *fishery biologist* because this is the term for the job class.

⁴ Although the dictionary allows either, the committee did not endorse the use of this plural.

⁵ Use *virion(s)* or *virus particle(s)* when referring to a single or multiple particles, especially numbers of (e.g., *a single virion can infect...*). Use *virus/viruses* for all other uses; i.e., when not referring to numbers of particles.



NOTES